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Argentina, Annual Report

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Report Highlights:

Argentina continues to be the second largest producer of soybeans (after the United States) among the mega-countries in the number of hectares planted with biotech crops, with an area of 18 million hectares estimated for the 2007 crop season. Now Argentina enters in a new stage of events after approving the use and commercialization of the first stacked event.

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Executive Summary

A decade has now passed since the first commercial releases of genetically modified crops and Argentina, a major producer of agricultural products with at least 98 percent of its soybean area planted with biotech seeds, faces a future with many challenges, where biotechnology is proposed to play a key role as a source of technological solutions to confront these challenges. However, in this scenario, biotechnology is not just a technological tool, its development involves cutting edge-science, political, legal and economic variables as well as external and internal negotiations.

Argentina continues to be the second largest producer of soybeans (after the United States) among the mega-countries in the number of hectares planted with biotech crops, with an area of 18 million hectares estimated for the 2007 crop season (Soybeans, Corn and Cotton). No other Latin American country embraced biotech crops as wholeheartedly as Argentina. Soybean harvested area has increased from 36,000 HAS (59,000 MT produced) in 1970 to 5.98 million HAS. in 1995/96 (12.43 MMT produced). The introduction of genetically engineered soybeans in the late 1990s sparked a further expansion of soy production, which now surpasses 15 million hectares. Now Argentina enters in a new stage of events after approving the use and commercialization of the first stacked event.

Argentina continues to be an important ally of the United States in international issues and co-complainant with the United States in the World Trade Organization challenge to the European Union moratorium on biotech crop applications. However, there is still a pending disagreement between Monsanto and the Government of Argentina (GOA) on a royalty collection system for Roundup Ready (RR) soybeans. With the new government in place, and with the creation of a new Ministry of Science and Technology, President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner has expressed her intention to stimulate biotech research and innovation.

The Argentine biosafety system is a useful model for other countries facing the challenging task of ensuring the safe and responsible use of agricultural biotechnology.

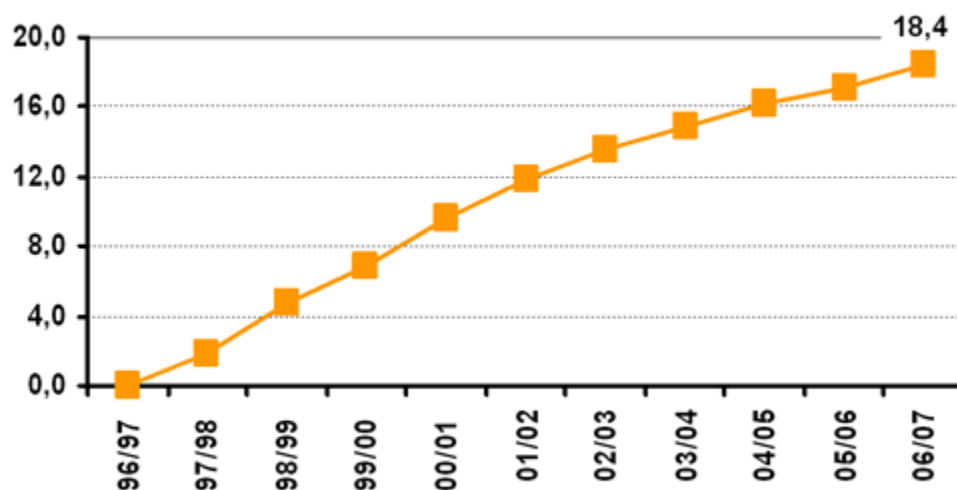
The Office of Biotechnology, created in 2004 is the key biotechnology agency within SAGPyA that centralizes all biotech activities and information.

Biotechnology Trade and Production

Argentina is the world's second largest producer of biotech crops after the United States, with eleven biotech crop varieties approved for production and commercialization: one for soybeans (Monsanto 40-3-2), two for cotton (Monsanto 531 and 1445) and now eight for corn (Ciba-Geigy 176, AgrEvo T 25, Monsanto 810, NK 603, Novartis Bt 11, Syngenta GA 21, Dow/Pioneer TC 1507 and Monsanto NK603 x 810). (Please See Attachment A)

Evolution of the total area planted with Biotech Crops in Argentina (millions of hectares)

Argentina: evolución de la superficie total con OGM (en millones de hectáreas)



Fuente: ArgenBio, 2007

Soybeans

Released in 1996, glyphosate tolerant soybeans were the first biotech crop introduced into Argentine agriculture. Since its release, this technology has been adopted at a very high rate, with 15.8 million planted hectares for the current season, placing Argentina in second place after the United States. The main reason for this rapid adoption is the great economic benefits that RR soybeans provide to the producer. Besides, when the adoption process started, the patent for Roundup (Monsanto's commercial name for glyphosate) expired several years earlier. Thus, there was already a significant increase in competition in the glyphosate market, which translated into significant price reductions. At the same time, the new technologies facilitated the incorporation of double cropping soybeans (following wheat) in many areas where only one crop was planted before the availability of the GMO varieties.

The Argentine soybean economy is geared almost entirely towards exports. Only two percent of harvested soybeans reach the domestic market, whereas 30 percent is exported as grain and 68 percent is processed by the oilseed industry within Argentina. Ninety-three percent of soybean oil and ninety-nine percent of by-products (meals) are exported.

Evolution of the area planted with biotech seeds in Argentina (thousands of hectares)

Argentina: Evolución de la superficie cultivada con OGM (en miles de hectáreas)

Cultivo	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07
Soja TH	370	1.756	4.800	6.640	9.000	10.925	12.446	13.230	14.058	15.200	15.840
Maíz Bt	-	-	13	192	580	840	1.120	1.600	2.008	1.625	2.046
Maíz TH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,5	70	217
Algodón Bt	-	-	5	12	25	10	20	58	55	22,5	88
Algodón TH	-	-	-	-	-	-	0,6	7	105	165	232
Total	370	1.756	4.818	6.844	9.605	11.775	13.586	14.854	16.241	17.082	18.423

Fuente: ArgenBio, 2007

Reference: Soybeans, Bt Corn, RRCorn, Bt Cotton, RRCotton

Corn

On August 31, 2007 Argentina approved the first stacked gene, Monsanto's NK603x810. This approval marks the first time stacked traits have been approved in the country. In February, the government simplified the approval process for stacked events, allowing applications for a transgenic crop combining two already approved events without a full analysis of the new crop. The seeds are genetically modified to produce a substance toxic to corn borer parasites and for glyphosate resistance, widely used as a herbicide to control weeds.

Biotech varieties of lepidoptera tolerant and ammonium-glyphosate tolerant corn were commercially released for the first time in 1998. The adoption of these varieties has also been significant. In the case of Bt corn, benefits are derived from a net increase in production, resulting from the reduction of losses caused by insects and not from increases in the area planted.

In the 2007 season, biotech corn represents almost the 73% of the planted area, where 217,000 HAS (7% of the total for corn) was planted with the glyphosate tolerant variety, and 66% (almost 2,05 MHAS) were planted with Bt corn.

Resolution 125/07

Argentina will track corn grown from GA21 event to avoid shipping that type of grain to the European Union, where the trait has been recently approved, according to resolution 125/07 from May 24, published in the government's official bulletin.

According to the resolution, providers or distributors can only sell corn seeds that contain that event to users who have made a sworn statement that the seeds are destined for domestic consumption.

The tracking system seeks to avoid a repeat of problems over the GA21 transgenic corn trait that arose earlier last year when the GA21 was not yet approved by the European Union. At the end of May, the government prohibited growing the variety after Spain rejected a shipment of Argentine corn. The GA21 trait, which is resistant to the herbicide glyphosate, isn't approved for human consumption in the European Union.

However, in July the ban on GA21 seeds was lifted following the implementation of a tracking system to prevent the corn from being shipped to the E.U. Farmers who use the GA21 seeds must make sworn statements that the corn will be used domestically or exported to regions where the trait is approved. Growers must also notify storage facilities, exporters and processors of the presence of the trait before delivering the corn.

Cotton

Biotech cotton adoption represents 80 percent of total cotton planted area. In the 2006/07 crop season, 72.5% of that cotton (232,000HAS) was plated with glyphosate resistant event and the remaining 27.5% (88,000HAS) were planted with the Bt event.

Although it seems that seed containing the combination of Bt and RR technologies might be approved in the near future, some sources stated that it is doubtful it will be marketed as seed companies have had serious trouble collecting fees and controlling illegal multiplication. Through a research project done by the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), it was found that in the leading cotton-growing regions of Argentina, biotech cotton required almost 64 percent fewer applications of insecticide when compared to its conventional counterpart.

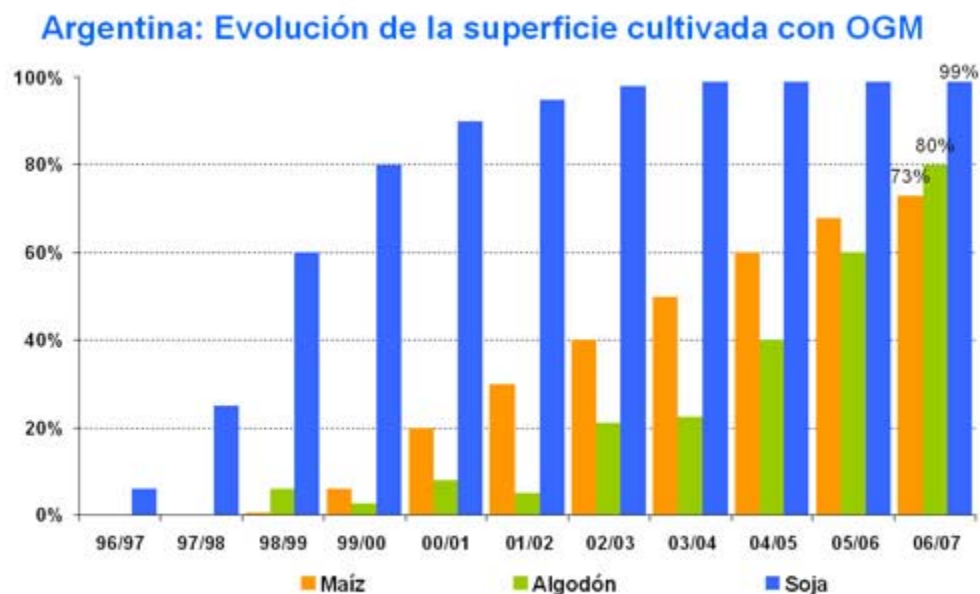
In Argentina, this research showed that the average cotton grower had a \$65 per hectare advantage (approximately \$26 per acre) using biotech cotton versus conventional cotton. Similar economic advantages have been found in the United States from the use of biotech cotton.

INTA is also conducting research of colored cotton varieties. The release in the market is expected in a few more years and will be focused on niche markets for small and medium producers.

Oilseed Rape

The National Seed Institute (INASE) has recently forbidden thru Resolution 305/07 the import of biotech rapeseed and established the requirement of a certificate stating the absence of biotech seeds in rapeseed shipments.

Evolution of the area planted with Biotech Seeds (Argentina)



Fuente: ArgenBio, 2007

Reference: Corn, Cotton, Soybeans

Cloned Cows: Cutting edge technology

Argentina has become the first country in Latin America to develop two generations of cloned cows, capable of producing Human Growth Hormone. In March 2006, CONABIA and SENASA (National Service of Agricultural And Food Health and Quality) after their rigorous analysis approved the first step in the process to authorize the production of the human growth hormone from milk. The next step that needs to be completed is the approval by the Secretary of Public Health.

The cloned calves, Pampa Mansa II, Pampa Mansa III and Pampero, developed by the Biosidus Company, carry a gene that produces human growth hormone in milk. The production of this hormone in the clones should help reduce the cost of the medicines, due to the increase in the volumes produced. The milk produced by just one cow can meet the demand of the entire country. It is estimated that 1,000 Argentine children currently require such hormone therapy.

In 2007, Biosidus Company developed another line of cloned calves, this time to produce insulin. After several years of research and 4 million dollars investment, "Patagonia" was the first calve born. In this case, the milk produced by 25 cows like Patagonia will meet the annual demand of the entire country at a lower cost (30% less than the currently used insulin). The intention is to produce enough insulin to be able to export in the near future.

Argentina is one of nine countries that have cloned genetically altered cows since 2002, the year Pampa Mansa was born. The project requires a long-term investment of venture capital, but in an increasingly competitive world, positions Argentina among a select group of countries with high-tech capabilities.

Biotechnology Policy

Biosafety Regulatory System

Argentine biosafety regulatory system is based on the evaluation of the product and not of the process through which it was obtained. Therefore, the evaluation takes place on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the process only in those cases where the environment, the agricultural production or the health of humans or animals could be at risk.

The Key office within SAGPyA that centralizes all biotech activities and information is the Office of Biotechnology, created in 2004. This office coordinates three technical areas: Biosafety Issues (The head is member of CONABIA), Policy Analysis and Formulation and Regulatory Design.

The approval process for commercialization of biotech seeds involves different agencies within SAGPyA:

-National Advisory Committee on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA)

Role: Evaluate of impact in the agricultural ecosystem. Ensures compliance with Resolution 39. (Please See Appendix B) and also with Resolution 60, that regulates stacked genes. CONABIA is a multidisciplinary and inter-institutional organization with advisory duties. Its main responsibility is to assess, from a technical and scientific perspective, the potential environmental impact of the introduction of biotech crops in Argentine agriculture. CONABIA reviews and advises the Secretariat on issues related to trials and/or the release into the environment of biotech crops and other products that may be derived from or contain biotech crops.

-National Service of Agricultural And Food Health and Quality (SENASA)

Role: Evaluate the biosafety of food products derived of biotech crop for human and animal consumption.

-National Direction of Agricultural Food Markets (DNMA)

Role: Evaluate commercial impact on export markets by preparing a technical report in order to avoid a negative impact on Argentine exports. DNMA mainly analyzes the status of the event under study in the destination markets in terms of whether the product has been approved or not and, as a result, whether the addition of this event to Argentina's export supply might represent a potential barrier to the access to these markets.

-National Seed Institute (INASE)

Role: Establish requirements for registration in the National Registry of Cultivars.

Upon completion of all of the steps mentioned above, CONABIA's Office of Technical Coordination compiles all pertinent information and prepares a final report to the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food for final decision. (Attachments C & D)

It is worth noting that CONABIA is a multi-sectorial organization made up by representatives from the public sector, academia and private sector organizations related to agricultural biotechnology. CONABIA members perform their duties as individuals and not as representatives of the sector they represent, and they are active participants in the international debate of biosafety and its related regulatory processes.

CONABIA has reviewed over 500 permits since its creation, developing new capacities as the sector required. Regarding its legal and institutional framework, CONABIA is an advisory

agency that operates pursuant to a resolution by the Argentine Secretary of Agriculture. In absence of a law, this fact prevents the establishment of an adequate system of penalties of those who do not comply with stipulated procedures.

In sum, Argentina was among the earliest countries to establish a biosafety regulatory framework, and there is consensus regarding its effectiveness adjusting to new developments.

Traceability

There is no official system in place. At this stage, only private companies (authorized labs) have the capability to perform the required tests. For example, the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) does it on private basis.

Labelling

There is no specific regulation in Argentina in reference to labelling biotech products. The current regulatory system is based on the characteristics and identified risks of the product and not in the production process of that product. Therefore, there is no regulation governing the use of labels such as "BIOTECH FREE" or "NON-GMO", which may be voluntarily used by the producer.

According to SAGPyA, for the implementation of a regulatory labelling system, the discussion should be based on the type of food product derived from a specific biotech seed taking into account that:

Any food product obtained through biotechnology and substantially equivalent to a conventional food product, should not be subject to any specific mandatory label.

Any food product obtained through biotechnology and substantially different from a conventional food product for any specific characteristic may be labelled according to its characteristics as food product, not according to aspects concerning the environment or production process.

Differential labelling is not justified, as there is no evidence that demonstrates that food products produced through biotechnology may represent any risk for the consumers' health. In the case of agricultural products, as the majority of them are commodities; the identification process would be complicated and expensive. The increased production costs as a result of labelling would end up being paid by the consumers, without assuring that this would represent better information or increased food security.

Stacked events

In 2007, and under Resolution 60 which complements resolution 39, Argentina approved a differential treatment for stacked genes. This differential treatment is based in a case by case evaluation, for what the applicant needs to submit a letter simultaneously to SAGPyA (Office of Biotechnology) and to SENASA requesting authorization for commercialization or the specific stacked event.

The evaluation is based on possible effects when the individual events affect related metabolic patterns. Also, in order to evaluate the possible effects of the stacked event in the ecosystem, as well as the food biosafety evaluation, CONABIA and/or SENASA will determine whether they request additional information from the applicant.

Coexistence

Refuge system is in place. The Argentine Seed Association (ASA), created in 1999 the Insect Resistance Management Program in Bt. The objective of the program is to promote a responsible use of technology in order to delay any potential resistance development and immediately detect any change in the susceptibility of insect population. To carry out this goal, the program is based on three pillars:

Research: Scientists from INTA (National Institute of Agricultural Technology) conduct permanent studies to improve the understanding of pest biology and to monitor the sensitivity to the Bt protein. This way, the tools used to evaluate recommendations regarding resistance management provided to farmers and used to detect any possible change in the susceptibility of the insect population, are in permanent improvement.

Communication: farmers, as users of the technology, have a key role in its preservation; therefore their knowledge is fundamental to achieve a responsible and successful management of Bt corn varieties.

Evaluation of a proper use of technology: the periodic evaluation of farmers to adopt refuges allows to assess the success of the program and to improve the tools to adjust communication. CONABIA approved this system and periodically receives reports submitted by ASA.

Intellectual Property Rights – Royalties

Argentina is a major producer and exporter of agricultural biotechnology products, yet it does not have an adequate and effective system in place to protect the intellectual property rights of new plant varieties or plant-related technology. Penalties for unauthorized use of protected seed varieties are negligible. Judicial enforcement procedures in Argentina likewise are ineffective as a mechanism to prevent the unauthorized, commercial use of protected varieties.

Argentine IP laws are compliant with TRIPS and UPOV78 and the system is consistent with international standards, but the lack of effective enforcement options for plant variety rights, combined with the absence of patent protection for a significant range of biotech inventions, renders Argentina's intellectual property system inadequate from the perspective of the biotechnology industry.

Monsanto, grower organizations, and commodity exporters are at an impasse regarding a solution to the continued high level of saved and illegally traded RR soybeans, which has depressed Monsanto's Argentine operation revenues. In January 2004, Monsanto announced that it would cease investments in and sales of RR soybeans in Argentina. The central issue, according to Monsanto, was its inability to fully collect RR-technology-related royalties from Argentine growers. Monsanto applied for and was denied a patent on RR soybeans, a decision it appealed unsuccessfully with the Argentine Supreme Court. Argentine law currently allows farmers to save seed from one harvest and to use it the following year if a royalty is paid to the original seed breeder. However, it is illegal to sell, trade, or pass saved seed from one producer to another.

In May 2004, Argentina's National Seed Institute implemented Resolution 44/2004, requiring that each sack of seed be labeled with quantity, unit price, total sales price, and seed species, type or variety. However, the illegal seed sales continued and Monsanto articulated that if an acceptable solution could not be reached with producer organizations and

commodity exporters by March 2005, Monsanto would begin to enforce royalty payments on unlicensed Argentine soybeans exports at ports of destination in countries in which Monsanto holds a patent on RR soybeans. In March 2005, Monsanto informed Argentine soybean and product exporters of imminent enforcement actions on unlicensed shipments of soybeans, soybean meal, and other soy products containing the RR gene. This move by Monsanto provoked heated reactions from GOA and Argentine farm organizations.

Since then, SAGPyA, Monsanto and interested parties have tried unsuccessfully to reach an agreement on royalties' collection. In the meantime Monsanto initiated legal actions in European Countries, but the recent verdicts in Spain and United Kingdom have been favorable to GOA.

Biosafety Law

During 2001, the SAGPyA actively cooperated with members of the Argentine Congress in drafting a biosafety law. This draft represented a major improvement on the current situation, since it clearly set forth a conceptual framework, as well as issues and instances to be considered as participants in risk analysis procedures. But due to the institutional and economic crisis that broke out on December 2001, the draft was never discussed in Congress and there is no evidence that it will be in the near future.

International Negotiation Fora

Cartagena Biosafety Protocol

In the international biotechnology negotiation arena, CBP is probably the most significant issue. Argentina signed the Biosafety Protocol in May 2000 in Nairobi, Kenya, but has not yet signed its ratification. Argentina is currently undergoing a consultation process, analyzing and debating with all the involved sectors the position the country will take to this respect.

The overlapping of environmental and human health concerns, as well as commercial implications, have resulted in an extremely difficult negotiation for the countries that, like Argentina, are commodity exporters.

It has to be taken into account that although Argentina has not ratified the BCP, it will have to comply with the commercial obligations when negotiating with countries that are parties.

The CBP has been signed and ratified by 117 countries, 16 of which are developed countries. It is important to mention that most of the undeveloped countries that ratified the CBP, do not possess biosafety regulatory systems and are currently evaluating their possibilities to adjust to the obligations of the CBP. Argentina considers that prior to setting basis of commercial issues, the countries that ratified the CBP should have their respective biosafety framework in place.

Codex Alimentarius and Other Agreements

Argentina is strongly working to reach consensus on biotech labelling and traceability, and actively participating to avoid potential trade disruptions and unnecessary cost increases.

Other important international negotiation areas are the creation of an ad-hoc group on agricultural biotechnology within the framework of the MERCOSUR.

Through these agreements, Argentina is trying to create a coordinated dialogue framework for the application of biotechnology policy and biosafety, in a way to avoid negative impacts of trade.

National Fora

Creation of a Biotechnology office within SAGPyA with the objective of centralizing all the information and activities.

Development of a 15 year Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan anticipates a future scenario, which is the context of the vision proposed. Policies are defined and an action plan is outlined for the realization of that vision. In order to define the main issues addressed, objectives are classified by areas of strategic concentration.

The plan proposes to diversify the application of biotechnology, both in the number of tools and in productive activities. It considers creating an appropriate environment (in political, legal and public acceptance issues) for the creation and development of biotechnology-based companies, and also to improve the consolidation of the existing ones. It is proposed to assist the increasing agricultural production, while preserving and improving the life quality of the present and future generations. One of the strengths of the plan resides on its flexibility: the accomplishment of the plan has been based on the implementation of a scheme that is built almost simultaneously along its execution, including the revision of objectives, goals and main actions.

Another strength of the plan is the collective bias of its elaboration: stakeholders of the agricultural and livestock activity took part in different discussions, and they contributed with relevant elements that promoted both the quality and the general acceptance of the document. For several agricultural biotechnology strategic concerns, a regional treatment has been anticipated with the purpose of preserving the regional integration, with attention to local issues, where the relationship with neighbor countries is defined in terms of technological cooperation and commercial exchange or competition.

Biotech Promotion Law

This law (N. 26.270) was enforced to promote biotech initiatives, to stimulate, through fiscal benefits, research, development and investment in products, services or biotech processes.

Marketing Issues

Public Perception – Consumer's Attitude

While Argentine scientists and farmers are optimistic and enthusiastic about the prospects of using biotech to improve yields and nutritional value of crops while decreasing the input of chemical pesticides. As yet, Argentine consumers do not see biotech products as a benefit to themselves but they can see these products as economically productive to farmers and multinationals. Therefore, they are hesitant about supporting the technology. As Argentina has been a leader in the adoption of biotechnology, there is an urgent need for dialogue and communication among scientists, farmers, private companies, consumers, government, and regulatory organisms.

Under the *UNEP-GEF* project (United Nations Environment Program – Global Environment Facility), SAGPyA has performed and released a survey among producers and consumers that provided the following results:

Producers: (survey conducted at the two most important local farming shows)

90% of the consulted producers assured that, albeit confusion and hesitation, they knew, worked or at least heard about biotech,

75% assured that consumption of biotech foods DO NOT present any risks to the human health,

12% expressed that they know the Argentine regulatory system, and half of them considered that it is safe,

57% assured that if GOA decides to segregate, they will still use biotech seeds,

82% expressed that biotechnology is a tool that solves problems that no other technology has been able to solve, and

49% assured that biotechnology does not present a serious ethical problem.

Consumers (survey conducted in various supermarkets):

80% are informed mainly thru TV, 55% thru radio and 50% thru newspapers,

13% DO NOT read the label of a product before purchasing it,

60% have confidence in what they consume,

64% of the consulted consumers assured that, albeit confusion and hesitation, they heard about biotech foods,

43% agreed on the use of biotech in agriculture

40% Assures that consumption of biotech products poses some risks to human health, and

84% out of that 40% identified the risks

94% of all consulted (both producers and consumers) expressed that the government should provide more information regarding the benefits and risks of biotech products.

Capacity Building and Outreach

2002

FAS Buenos Aires organized a biotechnology seminar that was successful in terms of attendance (over 300 participants).

Through Cochran funds, FAS Buenos Aires sponsored two-week biotechnology training in the United States for Argentine Government officials, organized by ICD and Michigan State University.

C. FAS Buenos Aires organized a series of lectures by Dr. Quiros, Davis University, targeting Argentine Universities, Schools and consumers in general.

2004

FAS Buenos Aires selected two Argentine journalists to participate in a US Grains Council activity in Hawaii, where they learned about the papaya industry.

The Agricultural Counselor accompanied State's Biotech Negotiator to participate in a series of biotechnology round tables organized by FAS Buenos Aires.

Through Cochran funds, FAS Buenos Aires sponsored a two-week biotechnology-training course in the United States for one representative of CONABIA, organized by ICD and Michigan State University.

Two Argentine producers attended the Farmer-to-Farmer workshop at the University of Zamorano in Honduras.

FAS Buenos Aires sponsored the trip of an Argentine expert to participate in a seminar in Santiago, Chile, directed to the Chilean Parliament.

FAS Buenos Aires organized a series of lectures in several local universities for Dr. Bruce Chassy, expert in Nutrition and Biotechnology.

2005

The Agricultural Counselor accompanied State's Biotech Negotiator to participate in a series of biotechnology discussions organized by FAS Buenos Aires.

FAS Buenos Aires in concert with FAS Santiago organized and accompanied a Southern Cone CODEL to the United States to demonstrate how the United States uses and regulates agricultural biotechnology.

FAS Buenos Aires organized a biotechnology workshop in several Argentine provinces, targeting universities and media. Dr. Wayne Parrott, from Georgia University was the invited speaker.

FAS Buenos Aires participated in the organization of the NABI/CAS meeting in Buenos Aires.

FAS Buenos Aires participated in the meeting of the parties prior to CBP in Canada.

FAS Buenos Aires selected one Argentine journalist to participate in a US Grains Council activity in the United States.

2006

FAS Buenos Aires organized a Seminar for Argentine Legislators.

FAS Buenos Aires organized a Low Level Presence in Buenos Aires

2007

FAS Buenos Aires invited a group of key Argentine journalists to Washington DC to meet with USDA, FDA and Office of Patents and Trademarks representatives.

FAS Buenos Aires organized a Workshop on "How Existing Codex Standards and Related Texts can be applied to Address Food Safety and Regulatory Issues of Foods Derived from Modern Biotechnology", addressed to national delegates Codex Labeling Committee of the Latin American region.




Proposed Activities

FAS Buenos Aires proposes a continuation of education and outreach as well as a more targeted information campaign. Specific activities may include:

- Workshops in different cities to target audiences around the country,

- A two-day conference directed mainly to Congressmen, but also to media, academia and government officials among others,
- Activities with local universities to demonstrate the benefits of Biotechnology in Argentina
- Continue Cooperator, Cochran, and International Visitor program activities,
- Special activities designed for consumer association leaders and consumers in general,
- Workshops especially directed to medical doctors and nutritionists, explaining the innocuousness of biotech products;
- Workshop in risk assessment that will be directed to Argentine, Paraguayan and Uruguayan experts.
- Technical workshop to discuss treatment and analysis of stacked biotech events.
- Work with Senators and Representatives on the regional forum created after the Southern Cone Reverse CODEL; and,
- Meetings to develop lines of communication between the GOA and the USG during the review process of biotech events.
- Technical workshop on animal biotechnology for experts from various countries.

Appendix A: Biotech Crops Approved in Argentina

Crop	Trait Category	Event	Applicant	Resolution
Soybean	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerant	"40-3-2"	Nidera S. A.	SAPyA N° 167 (25-3-96)
Maize	Resistant to Lepidoptera	"176" *	Ciba-Geigy	SAPyA N° 19 (16-1-98).
Maize	Glufosinate Amonium Tolerant	"T25"	AgrEvo S. A.	SAGPyA N° 372 (23-6-98)
Cotton	Resistant to Lepidoptera	"MON 531"	Monsanto Argentina S.A.I.C.	SAGPyA N° 428 (16-7-98).
Maize	Resistant to Lepidoptera	"MON 810"	Monsanto Argentina S.A.I.C.	SAGPyA N° 429 (16-7-98).
Cotton	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerant	"MON 1445"	Monsanto Argentina S.A.I.C.	SAGPyA N° 32 (25-4-01).
Maize	Resistant to Lepidoptera	" Bt 11"	Novartis Agrosem S.A.	SAGPyA N° 392 (27-7-01).
Maize	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerant	" NK 603 "	Monsanto Argentina S.A.I.C.	SAGPyA N° 640 (13-7-04).
Maize	Resistant to Lepidoptera and Glufosinate Amonium Tolerant	"TC 1507"	Dow AgroSciences S.A. and Pioneer Argentina S.A	SAGPyA N° 143  (15-03-05)
Maíz	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerant	"GA 21" *	Syngenta Seeds S.A.	SAGPyA N° 640  (22-08-05)
Maíz	Glyphosate Herbicide Tolerant and Resistant to Lepidoptera	NK603x810	Monsanto	SAGPyA N° 78  (28/08/07)

- Production and Commercialization in compliance with Res. 178/07 INASE
- Source: CONABIA

For a complete list of 2006 evaluations, please visit:

http://www.sagpya.gov.ar/new/0-0/programas/conabia/liberaciones_ogm_2006.php

Appendix B: Resolution 39

Specifies the conditions under which environmental releases of transgenic material should be conducted. Resolution 39 is part of the general regulatory system governing the existing agricultural regulations in Argentina related to Plant Protection (Decree-Law of Agricultural Production Health Defense. n° 6704/66 and its amendments), Seeds and Phytogenetic Creations (Seed and Phytogenetic creations law, n° 20.247/73 and its regulatory decree), and Animal Health (Law of Veterinarian Products, and Supervision of Creation and Commercialization. n° 13.636/49).

SAGPyA is the authority that issues the licences for experimentation on and/or release into the environment of genetically modified plant organisms, relying on the previous opinion from CONABIA.

- Licences are issued in the following cases:

- a) Laboratory-greenhouse trials;
- b) Field trials; and or
- c) Pre-commercial multiplication of GMOs

- Fifteen (15) copies of the appropriate application must be submitted to CONABIA. The procedure begins in the National Seed Institute at the following address: Paseo Colon 922 - 3° floor - office 349. zip code 1063 - Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, telephone no.: 54-11-4349-2433/2420/2498. fax: 54-11-4349-2417.

- Each copy of the application must be signed by a legally responsible person of the applicant organization, who will assume responsibility for the compliance with all of the conditions under which the pertinent authorization is granted.

- Information included in the summary of the application shall be contained in all other sections of the application, as it is required.

- The assertions in the additional information form must be accompanied by the supporting literature references. All information should be provided in the original language.

- The form must be written in the Spanish language.

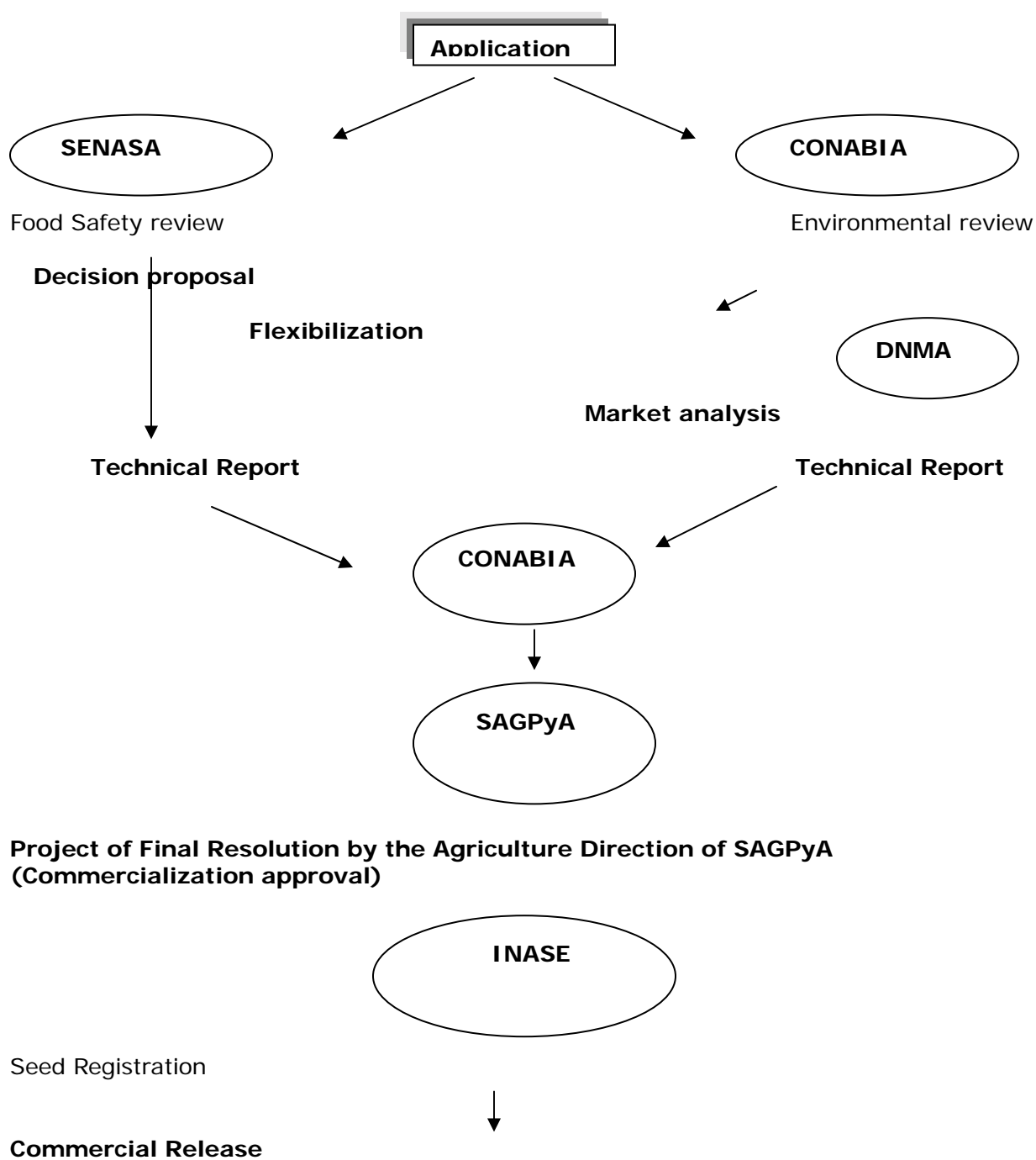
- Supplementary information may include reports presented to the competent authorities of foreign countries, with the amendments and additions that may be relevant for the local conditions, as well as references to previous reports presented to CONABIA.

- Upon evaluation of the application, CONABIA shall decide on the suitability of permitting the release of the G MO in question, and shall submit its decision for the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food.

- At the end of the period for which the authorization was granted, the applicant shall submit to CONABIA a final report.

- An authorized experiment will be deemed correctly concluded, upon compliance with the following conditions:

- Correct risk management by the applicant,
 - Consistency between the conditions under which the authorization was granted and the conditions observed at the site of experimentation, and/or release by the inspectors appointed by the competent authority; and
 - Submission of the final report.
- Any applicants who had already obtained authorizations for experimentation and/or release into the environment of GMOs, may request through a letter addressed to CONABIA, filed at the National Seed Institute, the flexibility status of the conditions under which the above mentioned permits are granted. Upon granting the flexibility status from the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, further releases into the environment will only require the submission of the following information: the area sown, the date of sowing, the site of release, and the harvest date. CONABIA will only recommend that inspections be made at harvest and of the measures taken for the final disposition of the material.
- Obtaining the flexibility status permit will not mean an authorization for seed commercialization. Seed commercialization is subject to the following terms and conditions:
- Authorization to follow more flexible conditions for the granting of permits for release into the environment of GMO material.
 - Compliance with the requirements set forth by the National Seed Institute for registration of the material in the National Cultivar Registry and in the official certification regulations.
 - Compliance, if applicable, with the requirements set forth by SENASA regarding authorizations for the commercialization of agrochemical products.
 - A letter addressed to the Technical Coordination of CONABIA at Paseo Colón 982 - 2° floor - office 220 - zip code 1063 - Federal Capital. Telephone no.: 54-11-4349-2222/2226, fax no.: 54-11-4349-2224, requesting the initiation of the procedure necessary to comply with the requirements under the jurisdiction of SENASA in connection with the use of transgenic material and its derived products for human and animal consumption. SENASA may request from the applicant any information it may deem necessary for the purposes of carrying out the pertinent evaluations.
 - Thereupon, CONABIA will request the technical review of the National Direction of Agricultural Food Markets regarding the convenience of commercialization of the GMO material.
- Upon completion with all of the steps mentioned above, CONABIA's Technical Coordination will compile the pertinent information for the purposes of preparing a final report to the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food for its final decision.

Appendix C: Commercial Release Approval Procedure for Biotech Events in Argentina

Appendix D: Field Test Approval Procedure For Biotech Events In Argentina

